Banker: closing Gray Reid's 'was last thing we wanted'

The future of Gray Reid's department stores in Reno and Carson City remained uncertain today, as officials conferred with lawyers about a court order obtained by Nevada National Bank.

The stores were closed Tuesday after a temporary injunction was issued on a claim by the bank that the store defaulted on $860,000 in loan payments.

"We'd like to see the doors open today," said Floyd Lamb, president of Nevada National Bank. "Closing was the last thing we ever wanted to do.

"But the loan had been in trouble for some time. We had no choice. We have a responsibility to our stockholders."

Lamb, who was in Las Vegas, said bank officials are meeting with store personnel. He said he will be in Reno Monday to confer with Stuart Webb, store president.

"It's Mr. Webb's move now. We had a letter from him some days ago saying he may be able to secure financing elsewhere."

Webb could not be reached for comment today.

On Tuesday, however, he said everything was being done to re-open the stores as soon as possible.

The fate of some 250 employes, thrown out of work by the closure, was also uncertain. Reportedly, employes were given their back and vacation pay Monday, but were told little about the situation.

Some 55 persons were employed in the Carson City store.

Carson City racing and boxing promoter Ted Walker said today he represents a group of investors which is, prepared to "make a firm and substantial offer to aquire Gray Reid's Carson City location and adjacent parking lot."

Walker said that if the Carson City store does not reopen, the group would "like to convert it into a much needed sports and convention center."

He plans to make the offer to store officials and the building's owner Monday.

Gray Reid's Carson City store is located in a shopping mall on South Carson Street.

"We would like to have a lease-purchase arrangement," Walker said.

If his group aquires the building, Walker said it would be used for boxing, wrestling, roller skating and ice skating, professional basketball and possibly micromidget racing.

The central switchboard at the Reno store on North Virginia Street was not in operation today. However, officials said customers who have purchased items which have been altered or are being held, may pick them up.

The credit office is open for customers who want to pay on their accounts.

The preliminary injunction seized assests of the store for up to 15 days. A hearing before Washoe Dist. Judge Thomas Craven is scheduled for Monday.

Carson Mall merchants fear losses

Gazette-Journal
Carson City Bureau

Shop owners in the Carson City Mall adjoining the closed Gray Reid's Department Store expressed uncertainty about their future Wednesday.

"It's going to hit this whole damn town," said Dave Burns, owner of Heidi's Pancake House in the Mall.

Burns, like other store owners interviewed, said business was "okay Wednesday and should be good during the Fourth of July weekend, but after that who knows?"

Doors at the Reno and Carson stores of Gray Reid's were closed Tuesday afternoon by the Nevada National Bank. There was no word late Wednesday when the two stores would reopen.

But what worries Carson Mall store owners is Gray Reid's, the largest department store in Carson, was a big draw for mall foot traffic. Its 55 employes also spent a lot of money there.

"Gray Reid's is one of the major pulling powers in Carson. It also pulled people in from Minden, Stateline and Tahoe," said Anthony Corona, of Corona Stationary and Gifts.

Burns said 25 to 30 Gray Reid's employes ate lunch in his pancake house each day.

Ted Thornton, owner of Country Club Shoes said, "I've got to be optimistic."

"It is really too early to say what is going to happen, but it will undoubtably cut traffic," Thornton said.

On one end of the mall, which contains some 34 stores, is a large supermarket. On the other is Gray Reid's. Shop owners say the Mall was designed that way to stimulate foot traffic.

"Anytime a large business goes out, it doesn't help a community," said Jerry Dorsey, owner of the Carson Flower Shop.

But Dorsey and the other owners said they wanted to wait a few days to see how long Gray Reid's is going to be closed before they made too many predictions.

Burns said what Carson needs is a strong merchants' association so people "Don't run to Reno and buy and help this town get back on its feet."

Merchants point to the fact that other stores in Carson, including two of its oldest markets and a long-time furniture store, have closed within the last month.

ehicle

orce

James Lambert, head of the state's law enforcement division, a member of the state attorney general's office and Shyne met Tuesday at the Reno police station to try and find a method to make the truck legal.

One of the suggestions was to make it part of the city.

Lambert was criticized by two Washoe County assemblymen for not issuing the permit.

"The problem posed by this type of vehicle," Lambert said, "is that the Nevada Revised Statutes don't permit the use of a red light unless certain requirements are met."

According to the law, the rescue truck didn't qualify.

Lambert said, "We have had numerous problems in the past with the use of red lights by private citizens."

Keystone, Mill widening under way

Street widening of parts of Keystone Avenue and Mill Street should be completed in about two weeks, Warren Meacham, Reno city engineer, said today.

City crews are now installing curbs and gutters on the two streets. The projects are part of the city's 1968 street and alley improvement program.

Keystone Avenue is being widened from two to four lanes from University Terrace to Kings Row. Mill Street is being widened from two to four lanes from Wells Avenue to Kirman Street.

Meacham said city crews will begin work on Stoker Avenue after the two other projects are completed.

2,890 marriage licenses issued in county in June

Alex Coon, chief deputy Washoe County clerk, says Reno is a marriage mecca, not a separation center.

"Only 311 divorce and annulment decrees were granted in June and 2,890 marriage licenses were issued.

"The marriage business is the equivalent of 52 small conventions per year," Coon said.

He substantiates his claim with the total of 30,287 licenses issued for the calendar year of 1968.

"More than half of the average 582 licenses-per-week are issued on weekends.

"We know that many wedding parties number six to ten people, but counting only two per license gives a conservative average of 600 people coming to Reno each weekend," Coon said.

There has been a constant increase in the number of licenses issued. In June 1967, the total was 2,567 and 2,955 were issued in 1968.

The June 1969 total is 2,890, but Coon said there were only four weekends this year as opposed to five weekends in June 1968. "The current rate is better than last year," he said.

A three or four member staff is on duty in the marriage license bureau every day in the year.

The image of Reno as a divorce capital is gone, according to Coon, "Marriage is the big business now and the license bureau is doing its share to keep that business in Reno."

Nevada Day program cover contest starts

Painters are invited to enter the second "Nevada Day Program Cover Contest."

The Nevada Day Committee opened the contest this week after selecting: "A Salute to 105 Years of Nevada Entertainment" as the 1969 theme for the Nevada Day celebration Oct. 31.

The winning painting will be used for the cover for the Nevada Day program, and the artist will receive a $100 U.S. Savings Bond.

Water colors, India ink or acrylic paints may be used but the painting must follow the 1969 theme. All work must be original, must have been completed in the last 12 months and must not have been exhibited in local competition. Size of entries is to be 20 by 16 inches.

Entry deadline is Aug. 10 if postmarked, or Aug. 11 at 5 p.m. if hand delivered to the Nevada Day Committee in Carson City.

I NEVER SAID IT WAS FUNNY..
WELL, IT'S NOT FUNNY.. IT HURTS!
I'M SORRY I SAID ANYTHING
I HATE THE WHOLE WORLD...
THIS IS A LITTLE PIECE CALLED "MUSIC FOR SKINNED KNEES"
I CAN'T STAND IT!
SCHULZ